

the gratitude and high regard of their fellow citizens. This is certainly true in the case of these three public officials who were recently awarded recognition by their peers and colleagues in the Commissioners' Court of Nacogdoches County.

County citizens are fortunate to have working on their behalf individuals such as Mr. Robert Spencer, who as the first African-American Justice of the Peace in Nacogdoches County, has played an integral role in educating the community's children on the dangers of drug use and school truancy. Prior to his election to this post, Mr. Spencer also served as a Deputy Sheriff in Nacogdoches County. His colleagues in the community have duly recognized his valuable work to establish and facilitate improved communication between the court system and law enforcement centers in the area.

Nacogdoches County organizations and boards truly have a friend in Dorothy Tigner, who was elected last year to serve as Justice of the Peace. As such she is the first woman to serve in this post. Prior to this, Ms. Tigner served for 5 years as the Administrative Court Assistant for the 145th Judicial District Court. In what must be limited free time, Dorothy Tigner plays an active role in the community, serving in several public service organizations including the Nacogdoches County Child Welfare Board and the Nacogdoches County Community Justice Counsel.

A graduate of the East Texas Police Academy, Mr. Eddie Upshaw plays an integral role in the daily law enforcement activities of Nacogdoches County. Following 9 years spent with the Nacogdoches Police Department, Mr. Upshaw went on to work for the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Department. In 1992, voters made evident their support of his efforts by electing Eddie Upshaw to the post of County Constable. He is the first African-American to serve in this post and continues in his important work to reduce truancy in County schools. In addition, Mr. Upshaw's numerous articles regarding the civil aspect of law enforcement have been published in local newspapers.

I'm sure my Texas colleagues join me in paying tribute to these three individuals. Their past experience and continuing accomplishments in the public service realm are a credit to the community in which they serve, and we wish them well in the journey and challenges which surely lie on the path ahead.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, twenty-two years ago, the U.S. Congress voted to enact the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Since that time, the provisions of CRA have provided unparalleled economic opportunity in the poorest of our country's communities. In the inner-city neighborhoods of Cleveland, families are realizing the dream of homeownership, real estate markets are rising and small businesses are breathing new life into

areas once redlined and hopeless. With the investments sparked by CRA, Cleveland has leveraged a higher quality of life in these neighborhoods and established a solid infrastructure to support economic growth throughout the area. It is estimated that CRA has resulted in investment commitments of \$3.1 billion for community development efforts in Cleveland. Nationally, CRA has spurred investments totaling more than one trillion dollars in cities and rural areas across the country. Today, I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to growth and stability in the underserved communities of America by protecting and strengthening CRA through the financial modernization legislation. In this time of great economic prosperity, it is our sacred trust to guarantee that hope and opportunity are extended to all Americans, in every community and in every neighborhood.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1568, a bill to establish an office of Veterans Business Development within the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, our nation again finds itself in a position of being unable to meet the recruiting goals of its armed services. To make matters worse, the military departments are also finding it difficult to retain service members in sufficient numbers to meet authorized manpower requirements to preserve our national defense.

The causes of these personnel shortages are many, but they fall into the general category of low pay, long hours, and too much time away from home. Many service members who do stay in the service long enough to be eligible for veterans benefits find it difficult to obtain meaningful employment when they get out of the service.

This bill will provide some help in this area. The legislation will direct the SBA and VA to work together to establish a program to assist veterans, including service-disabled veterans, through small business development centers. These centers would provide training and counseling to veterans concerning the formation, management, financing, marketing and operation of small business concerns, provide assistance and information regarding procurement opportunities with federal, state and local agencies, and compile a list of small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans which provide goods or services which could be procured by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent bill which addresses an immediate need, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

KINROSS TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL AND ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to residents of the Charter Township of Kinross, who are celebrating their centennial with a spirit of optimism. The celebration and the optimism of this northern Michigan community is especially inspiring, Mr. Speaker, because Kinross Township continues to struggle economically to recover from the Air Force decision to turn out the lights and turn the key on Kincheloe Air Force Base in September 1977. This military departure, which occurred far before the formal base closure program of the early 1990s, left a shell of an economy, a ghost of a community, and infrastructure and pollution problems that still must be dealt with today.

Kinross Township is working hard on its own recovery. The Centennial Ceremonies are an affirmation of that effort and a rededication to its fulfillment. The Centennial lets many township residents look back to their roots in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where their ancestors settled as lumbermen and farmers after the railroad opened up the territory.

Quilting has knit the community together for generations, and a special community quilt and a community blanket highlighting the area's history are among the Centennial activities.

The proximity of the Soo Locks guaranteed a U.S. military presence somewhere near Sault Ste. Marie to guard this vital facility. The locks were an essential link between the Great Lakes of Superior and Huron in bringing Great Plains wheat and iron ore from Minnesota and northern Michigan to lower Midwest ports and steel mills. The airport at Kinross was designated in June 1941, eventually growing to become a Strategic Air Command base and serving as home to B-52H bombers and KC-135 tankers. The base was named Kincheloe for Air Force Capt. Ivan C. Kincheloe Jr., a Michigan native, Korean War ace, and test pilot killed in an accident over the Mojave Desert in 1956.

An impact study prepared by the Air Force at the time of the closing noted Kincheloe was a \$55 million per year operation, with a significant portion of that funding spent in the local area. The impact of the loss of this income on the businesses and permanent residents of this largely rural area can only be imagined.

I have worked closely with community officials in Kinross, Mr. Speaker. Unlike our most recent base closing, which have included environmental cleanup of military sites before their turnover to civilian ownership and operation, and which have included large infusions of economic aid, the recovery of Kinross has been to a large extent a bootstrap effort. We have had some joint successes, such as the designation of the former base as the nation's first rural site to be designated a "brownfield," and we have worked to obtain funding for the former airport, now Chippewa County International Airport.

It should be noted that, although Kinross already had its name in the 1880s and had a post office for a short time in 1898, it was not an established township until a Mr. Albert Curtis, a man with vision and foresight, went to the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors in Sault Ste. Marie with a request to create a township. His proposal rejected, Mr. Curtis caught a train for Lansing, where he caught the state legislature in session and made the same request. Successful in this effort, he returned to Kinross, where he was elected supervisor in the township's first election, April 3, 1899. Mr. Curtis was to hold that office on and off for 24 of the next 36 years, part of his remarkable record of service to his community.

I have confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the people of the Charter Township of Kinross will one day view the closing of the air base as merely another step, albeit a painful one at the time, in the unique history of this area. The recent development of extensive snowmobile trails, five Michigan Corrections Department facilities and thriving area businesses signal a resurgence.

Like the community quilts, the essential fabric of Kinross Township remains intact, and new elements continue to be woven into the area's rich history. Mr. Speaker, I invite my House colleagues to join me in wishing the best for the people of Kinross Township on the occasion of their centennial.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVIDA
MOUNT EDWARDS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a truly fine American—Mrs. Davida Mount Edwards of Tyler, Texas—who died on Sunday, May 16. Davida was a devoted wife and mother, and will be dearly missed by those she touched in the East Texas area.

Mrs. Edwards was born September 19, 1921, in Chico, Texas. Her family later moved to Houston where she graduated from Reagan High School, in 1939, and later taught home economics. She expanded her extensive work in education by teaching Adult Homemaking Education classes for the Houston Independent School District. She also worked with the Texas Education Agency as a home-making supervisor, covering 14 counties throughout the great state of Texas.

Mrs. Edwards' loving and caring ways touched every aspect of her community. She was instrumental in forming the East Texas School of Nursing through her extensive travel within the East Texas area recruiting members to fill the first classes. She also assisted in the formation of the Robert Craig School of Nursing at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. In addition, Mrs. Edwards served in organizations such as the American Association of University Women, the Deborah Bible Club, Tyler Women's Forum, and was a 48 year member of First Baptist Church where she conducted Sunday School classes for many years. I always felt a kinship to Davida

in that her husband, Welby, and I are longtime friends. We are both from Fate, Texas, and John Payne and I have kept in touch with the Edwards through the years.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and respect for this truly great lady, Mrs. Davida Mount Edwards.

TRIBUTE TO MR. J.D. WILLIAMS, A
TRUE PATRIOT AND PRESI-
DENTIAL "POINT OF LIGHT"

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, as our nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, I would like to pay tribute to an American patriot who never forgot this country's veterans.

Mr. J.D. Williams' selfless attention to the memory of America's veterans was recently highlighted by The Pike County Citizen in Troy, Alabama.

As the newspaper noted: "Anyone who has lived in Pike County . . . no doubt saw the late Mr. Williams honoring the memory of military veterans by placing American flags and white crosses at grave sites of veterans in Pike and six surrounding counties. For decades, practically every day of the week, Mr. Williams would visit cemeteries, locate veterans' graves and, on behalf of his country, pay tribute to their service and sacrifice."

"Funds to purchase the thousands of flags Mr. Williams left at cemeteries came out of his own pocket. The thousands of wooden crosses he placed near grave markers were constructed and painted with his own hands. Not only did Mr. Williams leave flags and crosses at veterans' graves, he also would clean or repair any unkept grave site."

Mr. Williams, the article points out, paid no attention to the color of the deceased veteran or even if they had served in the Confederate Army; just so long as they were veterans.

It was this remarkable dedication to his fellow man and our nation that earned Mr. Williams national recognition as a "Point of Light" from President George Bush some ten years ago.

J.D. Williams passed away in July of 1994, but his self sacrifice is now being honored by the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7055 who have recently placed a permanent American pole on his grave.

At a time in this nation's history when many of our national veterans cemeteries are neglected by our own government, we need more people like J.D. Williams. This House owes him its thanks.

THE NATIONAL PRESS PHOTOG-
RAPHERS ASSOCIATION'S DAN
COOKE PIO AWARD OF EXCEL-
LENCE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 1995, I addressed the House to salute the achieve-

ments of the National Press Photographers Association on its 50th anniversary. I said, in part:

"Through their experience, they know of the necessity for a harmonious working relationship between the public safety and the journalistic communities so that accurate, even lifesaving information can be passed on very quickly to the waiting public. It is through this goal that they created the 'National Media Guide for Emergency & Disaster Incidents.'"

Our nation has continued to face earthquakes, floods, fires, tornadoes, and human tragedies over these past years. Emergency information continues to flow from the scene through media representatives to the public with life-saving instructions and information.

Now, two individuals and their Information Teams are being honored by the National Press Photographers Association. The NPPA Government/Media Relations Committee is pleased to announce the first recipients of the "NPPA Dan Cooke PIO Award of Excellence": Deputy Sheriff Steve Davis of the Jefferson County, Colorado, Sheriff's Department and Assistant Chief Jon Hansen of the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Fire Department.

Deputy Sheriff Davis is being honored for his work in keeping the public informed during the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado. Hansen is cited for his consistent dissemination of information over the years, most notably during the Oklahoma City Federal Office Building bombing and the recent tornadoes that killed and injured many people.

This award is named in memory of Lt. Dan Cooke, a Los Angeles Police Department Press Relations Officer for 22 years. He retired in 1988 after spending 35 years with the department. Cooke was the department's most frequent spokesman on major stories, from Presidential visits to infamous crimes that made headlines worldwide. In addition, he was a technical advisor on many movies and TV programs such as "Dragnet," "Badge 714," and "Adam 12." He became a personal friend to Jack Webb, and Cooke's Lieutenant's badge is the famous "714."

Dan Cooke's high standards are "the best a Press Information Officer can be", said Bob Riha, Jr., a contract photographer with USA Today from Long Beach, California, and co-chair of the Government/Media Relations Committee.

Within minutes of the horrifying Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, live broadcasts were sent around the world from the scene. Moments later, information flowed to media representatives from Assistant Chief Jon Hansen and his Public Information Team to a worldwide audience for the next several weeks, 24 hours a day. President Clinton even thanked Chief Hansen for his information updates as Federal and State resources raced to the scene to render aid.

Recently, when tornadoes cut across Oklahoma, devastating communities in their path, Chief Hansen continued to provide emergency public information to his community, our nation, and the world, despite losing his own home to the tornadoes.

The Columbine High School shootings were perhaps the most gripping tragedy in our nation in the past several years. As emergency